



Americans spend in excess of \$100 billion a year to create 30 billion original documents. In an average office 1.5 pounds of waste paper is generated per employee daily. 500 billion copies are made a year and 42 billion fax's sent. It is estimated that 50-70% of employee time is spent on paperwork.

These volumes equate to increased timber harvests, increased consumption of energy to make paper as well as a higher tonnage of paper in the solid waste stream. Now is the time to readjust our behaviors regarding the flow of paper. There are many ways to decrease the consumption of paper and to reuse products. It makes sense ecologically as well as financially. These habits are easy to instill in your home as well as the workplace. You can reduce your paper consumption, storage and employee time by implementing some of these tips.

* If you double side and single space a document you save 4 times the paper of a standard document.

* Fax cover sheets are often unnecessary. There are commercial products to stick on the side of a document that will save you a cover sheet.

* Many of us are FAX happy. Think before you FAX. Sometimes a quick conversation can take the place of a document.

* Minimize envelope size. Can you fold a piece of paper instead of using a manila envelope. Use smaller envelopes to pay bills or send single sheets.

* Reuse envelopes. All it takes is a label which is 78% less expensive than a standard envelope.

* Reuse the backs of paper for scratch pads. It amazes me that people actually buy scratch paper.

* Get your name off of mailing lists. It does work. I have decreased my mail by approx. 40% in the last 2 years by writing and calling companies and requesting to be removed from their list.

* Do not print drafts. Or use the backs of used paper for drafts.

* Set up your copier to "duplex as default".

* If you use a printer set it up so it doesn't discharge blank sheets.

* Route copies instead of making copies for each person.

* Have a centralized filing system with easy access.

* Change margins to 0.5 and letterhead to 2" at the top and 1.6" at the bottom. Consider smaller or condensed fonts.

* Post announcements rather than copy them to everyone.

* Purchase products in bulk that have less packaging.

* See if your supplier will take boxes back to refill with your next order.

* Review your forms. Can they be reduced in size or eliminated?

Conduct a waste audit at your office or home. Place a box next to the garbage for a few days and see how much you accumulate. What you can not reuse, recycle. Look at the collected material and decide how you can decrease it. Remember that these behaviors will save trees, rivers, pollution and landfill space. It should save you money too.

Kill no more pigeons than you can eat.
-Benjamin Franklin

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This Land is Whose Land ?

by
James D. Patton
(George)

I was sipping coffee (Yes, I refuse to go along with the latest latte' fad. If God had intended people to drink coffee with foam on it, She would have called it beer.) at my favorite corner establishment when Arnie slid into a wrought iron chair at my side. He was wearing Bermudas and a bemused look, neither of which were uncommon for him.

I knew he was on his way to the Farmer's Market because that is where he goes every Saturday to purchase lettuce. His weekends are pretty wild.

Until I met Arnie, I thought lettuce was grown in plastic bags bags; Arnie has since corrected me on this matter. I now know that lettuce should be purchased in the morning from a farmer who swears it was picked the night before, carried quickly home in a paper sack so it can breathe, stored upright on crushed ice (laying it on its side will compress the leaves), never placed near other vegetables which might taint its flavor, torn rather than cut for a salad, and that leaf lettuce is better than head lettuce.

Purchasing lettuce is the highlight of Arnie's weekend, and may well be a fetish that has as yet gone unnoticed by the psychiatric journals.

I looked up from my paper. "Shouldn't you be fondling vegetables about now?" I asked.

"I do have to hurry, George, but I wanted to ask if you knew anything about waterway law."

Like Sherlock Holmes I like to display my deductive powers. "I see you've been reading about Mark Wattles and the Willamette River between lettuce purchases."

"Yes, and I'm confused. I thought the public had access to rivers."

"Public lands, public waterways, public use, public, public, public; sounds to me you're dangerously close to socialism, Arnie."

"Gosh, no! That's worse than Satanism."

"Glad to hear you say that. You'll understand then that Mr. Wattles is helping us steer clear of the evils of creeping socialism. You see," I said, warming to my topic, "when some 'little people' think that they have the right to use part of the state in which they live and pay taxes, Mr. Wattles, at no little cost to himself, has hired armed thugs--excuse me, security guards--to remind those people of their place in society."

"Where would that place be, George?"

"Somewhere else, but only if that person can afford it."

"I see, is that why there should be no public, only private lands?"

"Absolutely correct. If everything were private, we could count on the rich keeping us properly in our places, wherever that might be. It was a sad day when voting rights were given to non-land owners."

"Wow, I never thought of that."

"Well, you should. That's why I support Bill Gates in his negotiations to buy Mount Hood."

"Thanks, George. I feel a whole lot better now, knowing how the rich will make sure we remain a 100% capitalist society where rights are earned the 'old-fashioned way; they're bought." Arnie scratched his head in a thoughtful fashion. "Why does he call the sheriff's office though?"

"Simple, the police have no better use of their time than protecting the property rights of the rich from people who would dare land a boat or put strange footprints in their sand."

"I see. Is the 50,000 square foot home on farm land part of Mr. Wattles plan to help us. It seems to be a waste of good farm land."

"There you go talking socialist again. He's doing us a favor. That house may violate existing land use laws, but enough lawyers and cash will insure that it remains a monument to its owner, kind of like the ancient pharaohs' pyramids. Keeps everything in proper perspective."

"I have to run." Arnie stood. "Lettuce after 10:00 AM is past its prime."

"That reminds me. I have some lettuce in a bag that's turning brown. I threw out all the moldy pieces. Do you suppose it'll still be OK tomorrow?"

Arnie left without reply.

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-William Jennings Bryan

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